UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/429
23 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Items 34 and 35 of the provisional agenda*

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 15 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the statement made by His Excellency Mr. Fidel V. Ramos, President of the Republic of the Philippines, on the mutual recognition between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel and on the agreement on Palestinian limited autonomy in the Gaza strip and the West Bank town of Jericho (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 34 and 35 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Narcisa L. ESCALER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Statement made on 14 September 1993 by the President of the Philippines concerning the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization Accord

The Philippines joins the international community in expressing its elation over the signing of the Israel-PLO Accord. This is a great development for two peoples with which the Philippines enjoys a deep friendship, the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. The Philippines has long viewed the differences between the two communities not as a choice between a right and a wrong cause, but rather, as two just causes in need of conciliation.

I salute the statesmen who made this historic event possible, the President of Palestine and PLO Chairman, Yasser Arafat, and the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzak Rabin. Likewise, I congratulate the Governments of the United States of America and Norway for their key roles in helping to ensure enduring peace in the Middle East.

The Accord marks a vital breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. We hope that similar agreements between Israel and their neighbours will be concluded in the near future. In the United Nations and other international forums, the Philippines has always supported the legitimate aspiration of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. We enjoy fruitful bilateral relations with both Israel and Palestine.

This Accord is further evidence of a current global trend towards conciliation between formally adversarial entities. We, in the Philippines, are ourselves in the midst of a comprehensive peace process. We are confident that our own unification efforts will receive added impetus from the global trend, just now elevated to new heights by Israel and Palestine.